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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PCT/EP00/02366

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FOR:

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FOR

MATERIAL SEPARATION"

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

"Express Mail" No.: EJ375994365 Date: -SEPTEMBER 17, 2001I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

- Amy L. Hamm - (Typed or printed name) of person mailing paper or fee)

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the determination of the filing fee and any action on the merits of the accompanying new patent application, kindly amend the application as follows:

## In the Claims:

Attached please find a separate clean version of amended claims  $4 \cdot 10$ ,  $13 \cdot 14$ ,  $16 \cdot 17$ ,  $21 \cdot 24$  and  $26 \cdot 27$ , followed by a 'marked-up version'.